

Severe gales return to the UK

11 March 2008

Another bout of severe gale force winds is predicted to affect the UK, with many central and northern areas likely to see the worst conditions.

Forecasters at the Met Office, the UK's national weather service, have issued warnings of severe gales with gusts of 65 to 75 m.p.h., and perhaps in excess of 80 m.p.h. gusts over exposed coasts and hills. Areas most at risk from this spell of severe weather are likely to be Northern Ireland, northern and eastern England, north Wales, and the Midlands.

The Met Office is working closely with Network Rail to provide regular forecast information to help them assess the possible impact of the weather on the railway, and put in place measures to keep trains moving.

Brian Golding, Head of Forecasting at the Met Office said: "We are forecasting some extremely hazardous weather conditions in parts of the UK overnight and through Wednesday morning with damaging gusts of wind in excess of 80 m.p.h. and the risk of snow across higher parts of northern England and southern Scotland. People are advised to be prepared for the weather and keep up to date with the local forecast on TV and radio."

Derek Turner, Director of Traffic Operations at the Highways Agency, said: "I strongly advise all road users to check the latest information on weather and road conditions before starting their journeys."

People are advised to stay in touch with the latest weather forecast and warnings on the Met Office website, and tune into local radio and TV.

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